

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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**November 4, 2011**

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<b>President Obama Meets with French, German Leaders on Debt Crisis.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Proclamation by President Obama for Veterans Day 2011 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Peace Corps Worker in Thailand Recycles Tires into Playgrounds .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>U.S. Supports Stable, Democratic, Market-Oriented Zimbabwe .....</b>	<b>2</b>

## President Obama Meets with French, German Leaders on Debt Crisis

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama met separately with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel before the opening of the Group of 20 advanced economies leaders summit in Cannes, France, and resolving the European debt crisis was at the center of their talks.

"The most important aspect of our task over the next two days is to resolve the financial crisis here in Europe," Obama said November 3 after a meeting with Sarkozy.

"We also discussed the situation in Greece and how we can work to help resolve that situation as well. And the United States will continue to be a partner with the Europeans to resolve these challenges," he said.

Obama said the European Union has taken some important steps toward a comprehensive solution. On October 27, EU leaders agreed to support a second 100 billion euro bailout plan for Greece, which is in danger of defaulting on its debts. The EU also negotiated a plan with bondholders to write down the value of the Greek debt they hold by 50 percent.

"But here at the G20 we're going to have to flesh out more of the details about how the plan will be fully and decisively implemented," Obama said.

Sarkozy said at a press briefing with Obama that he and Obama are trying to build unity at the G20, which began meetings November 3 and will continue through November 4. "I wish to pay tribute to the United States for understanding about all the issues we'll be discussing over the next 48 hours, and in particular, the issue of the Greek crisis, the difficulty that the euro is facing," Sarkozy said.

Before going into individual talks with Merkel, Obama told reporters that a central concern for the G20 talks is how to achieve greater global economic growth and expand employment.

Deputy National Security Advisor Mike Froman said at a press briefing in Cannes that while the Eurozone crisis is a central issue, the leaders will also discuss more generally the broad G20 agenda, which focuses on a framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, financial regulatory reform and steps to implement new regulations globally.

Froman, who advises the president on international economic affairs, also said the leaders can be expected to

discuss economic development, food security and other significant global issues in the course of detailed talks over the two days.

## Proclamation by President Obama for Veterans Day 2011

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
November 3, 2011

VETERANS DAY, 2011

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### A PROCLAMATION

Today, our Nation comes together to honor our veterans and commemorate the legacy of profound service and sacrifice they have upheld in pursuit of a more perfect Union. Through their steadfast defense of America's ideals, our service members have ensured our country still stands strong, our founding principles still shine, and nations around the world know the blessings of freedom. As we offer our sincere appreciation and respect to our veterans, to their families, to those who are still in harm's way, and to those we have laid to rest, let us rededicate ourselves to serving them as well as they have served the United States of America.

Our men and women in uniform are bearers of a proud military tradition that has been dutifully passed forward — from generation to generation — for more than two centuries. In times of war and peace alike, our veterans have served with courage and distinction in the face of tremendous adversity, demonstrating an unfaltering commitment to America and our people. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the country they loved. The selflessness of our service members is unmatched, and they remind us that there are few things more fundamentally American than doing our utmost to make a difference in the lives of others.

Just as our veterans stood watch on freedom's frontier, so have they safeguarded the prosperity of our Nation in our neighborhoods, our businesses, and our homes. As teachers and engineers, doctors and parents, these patriots have made contributions to civilian life that serve as a testament to their dedication to the welfare of our country. We owe them a debt of honor, and it is our moral obligation to ensure they receive our support for as long as they live as proud veterans of the United States Armed Forces. This year, as our troops in Iraq complete their mission, we will honor them and all who serve by working tirelessly to give them the care, the benefits, and the opportunities they have earned.

On Veterans Day, we pay tribute to our veterans, to the fallen, and to their families. To honor their contributions to our Nation, let us strive with renewed determination to keep the promises we have made to all who have answered our country's call. As we fulfill our obligations to them, we keep faith with the patriots who have risked their lives to preserve our Union, and with the ideals of service and sacrifice upon which our Republic was founded.

With respect for and in recognition of the contributions our service members have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor our Nation's veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2011, as Veterans Day. I encourage all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I call on all Americans, including civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, and communities to support this day with commemorative expressions and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

### **Peace Corps Worker in Thailand Recycles Tires into Playgrounds**

Washington — Tires that once rolled through the streets, on the road and around the farm have found new life as playthings for children, thanks to a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand.

Peace Corps volunteer Kathlyn Paananen, of Seattle, helped her community in Thailand build five playgrounds made out of donated motorcycle, car and tractor tires. The recently finished playgrounds, which feature climbing equipment and swing sets made from the recycled tires, now provide colorful play areas for more than 100 local children.

"I definitely enjoy seeing the children's smiling faces as they play on the new equipment, but I also enjoy seeing the sense of pride in my counterparts and the village volunteers," Paananen said in a November 3 Peace Corps

press release. "They accomplished so much by working together as a community."

As a community business and organizational development volunteer, Paananen worked with employees from the local city hall to conduct an infrastructure assessment of five different child development centers in the area. Based on the results of the assessments, they developed proposals in Thai and English to build new equipment using recycled materials.

The project involved different community volunteers from Thai and American nongovernmental organizations, the local technical college, private businesses and village leaders.

Paananen, a University of Washington graduate who has been in Thailand since January 2010, said, "My Peace Corps service has been both rewarding and challenging, and has given me a unique experience to participate in a completely different culture."

While serving as a Peace Corps volunteer, she is also a student in the Peace Corps Master's International program, studying at the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington. This program allows her to integrate a master's degree with overseas service, helping her to advance her education while gaining more skills to enhance her work in the Peace Corps.

More than 5,040 Peace Corps volunteers have served in Thailand since the program was established in 1962. Currently, 106 volunteers are working in Thailand, in the areas of education and community development. Volunteers are trained and work in Thai.

President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, by executive order. Throughout 2011, Peace Corps is commemorating 50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the world. Historically, more than 200,000 Americans have served with the Peace Corps to promote better understanding between Americans and the people of 139 host countries.

Today, 8,655 volunteers are working with local communities in 76 host countries. Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. They commit to serve for 27 months.

### **U.S. Supports Stable, Democratic, Market-Oriented Zimbabwe**

By MacKenzie C. Babb | Staff Writer

Washington — The United States supports development of "a strong, democratic, market-oriented" Zimbabwe and is continuing to provide humanitarian aid as the country undergoes political transition and prepares for elections

in 2012, a top State Department official told a congressional panel.

"The United States has always supported the people of Zimbabwe's aspirations to create a country that would truly empower its citizens," Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson said November 2 in prepared remarks to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights.

Carson called Zimbabwe "a country of enormous economic, agricultural and regional potential," but added that a history of "fiscal mismanagement, poor governance and a culture of political violence have limited that potential for nearly 15 years."

After a "deeply flawed and violent election" in 2008, Carson told the congressional subcommittee, Zimbabwe's former opposition parties are now part of a transitional coalition government established under the stewardship of the Southern African Development Community as a way to end political violence and move past contested elections.

He said that while challenges remain, there have been significant social, economic and political advances since the election.

Carson praised the reopening of schools and health clinics across Zimbabwe that were previously closed because of a lack of staff and supplies. The country's humanitarian need, Carson said, has decreased significantly. In 2009, 7 million people received humanitarian aid across the country. The assistant secretary said that in January 2012, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is projected to be just 1 million.

The country's economy has also made a remarkable recovery, Carson said, with Zimbabwe's gross domestic product growing at a rate of 9 percent in 2010.

The assistant secretary highlighted Zimbabwe's political progress in particular. He commended the tripartisan parliamentary committee's efforts to seek input from millions of Zimbabweans on a new draft constitution. Carson said the next two years will be a test for the country as the world watches to see if Zimbabwe's political leaders stick to commitments on free and fair elections.

Carson said Zimbabwe's future will depend "on the collective decisions Zimbabwe's people make to replace a legacy of political violence and one-party rule with a culture of tolerance, reconciliation and the depoliticization of state institutions."

These choices, Carson said, largely will dictate the future of U.S.-Zimbabwe relations, as the United States "values partnerships with nations whose leaders demonstrate a commitment to the rule of law and the free flow of information." Carson said these features are a foundation of stable, growth-oriented democracies worldwide and will be a "key factor governing our relationship with the government of Zimbabwe in the years to come."

The assistant secretary said if Zimbabwe's political parties implement their commitment to hold free, fair and internationally monitored elections, "there will be a clear imperative for the United States to reconsider our current sanctions policy."

The U.S. sanctions program targets 121 individuals and 69 entities that pose a threat to Zimbabwe's "stability, prosperity and development as a modern democratic state."

Carson praised Zimbabweans for including protections for human rights in their laws and constitution, and said the State Department will support them as they press for the protection of human rights and accountability for those who abuse those rights. He added that the United States, which provided nearly \$1 billion in assistance during the past five years, is also working to promote the country's economic recovery and to highlight opportunities for investment "that will benefit U.S. and Zimbabwean businesses alike."

The assistant secretary testified alongside officials from the U.S. Agency for International Development and experts from various global aid groups.

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